

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 06886 110922Z  
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 HEW-06 NSF-02 NAS-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /033 W

-----120649Z 007721 /21

R 110831Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7634

UNCLAS TOKYO 6886

FOR OES/APT/BMP FOR WALSH

DEPT PASS NIH FOR DR. QUINN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE GUIDELINES TO CONTROL RECOMBINANT DNA RESEARCH

1. PRESS ARTICLES REPORTED MAY 8 THAT THE SCIENCE COUNCIL OF JAPAN WILL BEGIN DELIBERATIONS ON THE ADOPTION OF GUIDELINES TO CONTROL THE RESEARCH INTO RECOMBINANT DNA IN JAPAN. THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLASMID RESEARCH SUBMITTED ITS REPORT TO THE FULL SCIENCE COUNCIL ON APRIL 26. THE SUBCOMMITTEE WAS CHAIRED BY DR. YATARO TAJIMA OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GENETICS.

2. THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S REPORT CONTAINS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF RECOMBINANT DNA RESEARCH VERY MUCH SIMILAR TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE NIH GUIDELINES. THE REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT RESEARCH CONDUCTED AT THE P-1 AND P-2 LEVELS (AS DEFINED UNDER THE NIH GUIDELINES) BE AUTHORIZED TO BE CONDUCTED IN SUITABLE FACILITIES. THE REPORT ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT AN ORGANIZATION BE ESTABLISHED TO ALLOW SCIENTISTS WORKING IN THIS FIELD TO AIR THEIR VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES TO THE SCIENCE COUNCIL SO THAT THESE VIEWS CAN BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE THE FINAL DECISION IS MADE ON THE FORMAL GUIDELINES. THE ORGANIZATION WILL ALSO BE A UNCLASSIFIED

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SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT PROCEDURES OR REGULATIONS FOR DNA RESEARCH CONTROLS.

3. SINCE JAPAN HAS NO LABORATORIES SUITABLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF EXPERIMENTS AT THE P-3 OR P-4 LEVELS (AS DEFINED BY THE NIH GUIDELINES) NO SUCH WORK WILL BE

AUTHORIZED. HOWEVER, THE REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT THE GOJ SUBSIDIZE THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH FACILITIES SO THAT THIS RESEARCH CAN BEGIN IN JAPAN. THE REPORT ALSO REQUESTS THAT THE GOJ PAY FOR RESEARCHERS TO STUDY ABROAD (PRESUMABLY IN THE U.S.) TO LEARN SAFETY TECHNIQUES FOR USE IN JAPANESE LABORATORIES.

4. EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT WILL BE POCHED TO OES/APT/BMP FOR DISTRIBUTION TO INTERESTED USG AGENCIES.

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## Message Attributes

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